

****DRAFT****

Alaska Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
General Membership Meeting
December 20, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Anne Lazenby at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Members Present: President Anne Lazenby, Vice President Brenna Povelite, Secretary Gina Ashman, Treasurer Karen Haddock, Membership Liaison Jamie Hartung, Anne Dawson, Lisa Holton, Tracy Pifer, Ryan Scott. Members participating via distance: Kathleen Bodolay. Guests: Jennifer Gates, Andree Howard, Chelsea Hull, Sharon Miranda, Eve Ooten, Tim Pack, Courtney Westmann. Interpreters: Natalie Page, Colleen Peterson.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Billi Perkins, the previous President of AKRID.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the 12/7/18 General Membership meeting were approved with corrections to attendance.

Introduction of Board: The previous vacancies and special election process was reviewed and the new Board of Directors each gave a short introduction.

President Report: Anne Lazenby provided a Region V update regarding the interim CEO at the National level and also the Region V Workshops to be held in partnership with DeafNation World Expo in Las Vegas July 13-16, 2020. Anne L. also announced that thanks to Karen Haddock. UAA is now a CASLI site for NIC exam performance and knowledge exams.

Vice President Report: Brenna Povelite reported on the past recruiting visit of Brent Redpath from WOU and discussed possibly education and ASL options for Alaska students in partnership with the Lower 48 postsecondary programs.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Gina Ashman and Karen Haddock are still working together. As of 11/30/10 the total funds are \$26,660.85 with the following breakdown: \$22,585.57 general funds, \$2070.28 old "Conference" funds, \$2005.00 CDI scholarship fund.

Membership Liaison Report: Jamie Hartung presented the Board's 2-year vision statement. She reviewed the benefits to AKRID members—network, share ideas/platforms, voting for AKRID/RID, involved in professional and leadership growth, workshop discounts, and newsletter. Jamie reported that she plans to send out a Newsletter approximately every other month with announcements, workshops, events, and "interpreter spotlight" (to get to know each other statewide). Please send ideas for Newsletter content and events to Jamie.

Professional Development Committee (PDC): Anne Dawson reported on the recent survey results regarding the frequency, type, and topic preferences for trainings. She discussed the idea of adding a "Professional Discussion" in conjunction with membership meetings, and the possible use of Zoom or other technology for statewide participation. She also announced that on 1/1/2020 UAA will become an EIPA testing site.

Old Business:

Supporting ASL 3 & 4 students - This was from pending old business discussion previously raised by Tracy Pifer, but she had to leave today's meeting so discussion was postponed. Brenna mentioned that WOU is one resource, and members were asked to inform the Board of other contacts who might want to share their experience with out of state study related to ASL, Deafness, and Interpreter training.

New Business/Issues raised by membership:

AK Educational Interpreters Conference (AEIC) - Tracy Pifer announced this will be held Feb 14-16, 2020 with Pamela Wright, a Deaf presenter from MD. Topics include Language Stewardship and the schedule will include a Friday evening Keynote, and Saturday & Sunday sessions.

Neuropsychologist - Ryan Scottt reported that AK now is receiving periodic services from a Deaf Neuropsychologist Dr Jaime Wilson. He and his wife (who is a deaf or hard of hearing nurse) would be interested in presenting training to interpreters in AK.

Emergency planning - Ryan Scottt reported that the Alaska Disability Advisory Group (ADAG) is drafting a plan for getting interpreters in a disaster. She has a contact person at FEMA to provide training, but they need local groups to “sponsor” to provide trainings. A discussion was had about issues that occurred after the 11/30/18 earthquake and the summer 2019 fires, as well as deaf organization involvement, communication structure, and centralized information sources. The Board asked for more information in order to consider what role AKRID might play.

Volunteer opportunities - Two distinct issues were raised: (a) opportunities for advanced ASL students to get involved at community events and (b) creation of a volunteer pool of qualified interpreters for events when appropriate.

Regarding (a) students, Chelsea Hull mentioned that she is helping create a startup chapter of Hands and Voices and has had positive experience in other states integrating students into events such as family camps or volunteer child care/activity tables at an event; others expressed negative experiences with unsuccessful communication and concern about students not knowing what they don't know.

Regarding (b) a volunteer interpreter pool, the Board commented about past discussions on the challenges of determining consensus for when pro-bono interpreting is appropriate or not as well as when it is responsible to include pre-certified interpreters.

Sharon Miranda mentioned that the Hope Walk-n-Roll fundraiser has established fund that may be utilized for interpreting services at personal type events.

Jennifer Gates stated that ADC (Alaska Deaf Council) is working on developing criteria for an Emergency Interpreter Cache for Deaf Interpreters and could be shared with the interpreting community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm

Submitted by Gina Ashman